

Message Text

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61/44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

PM-03 NSC-05 SS-20 SCS-02 SCA-01 OPR-01 L-01 H-01

DRC-01 /056 W

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O 111122Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9515

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (P A R A 5)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, VS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY ON REPORTEDLY INJURED CBS TV
REPORTER

REF: STATE 223829

1. CBS CORRESPONDENT HANEY HOWELL IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN
SAIGON'S ADVENTIST HOSPITAL FOR THE NEXT TWO OR THREE DAYS
FOR OBSERVATION AND REST. HIS CONDITION IS REPORTED AS
GENERALLY GOOD, ALTHOUGH HE STILL SUFFERS CONSIDERABLE
PAIN IN THE ABDOMINAL AREA. X-RAYS SHOW NO BROKEN BONES.

2. HOWELL WAS INJURED THURSDAY (OCTOBER 10) WHILE FILMING
A SMALL DEMONSTRATION NEAR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING
IN SAIGON. NEWSMEN WHO WERE AT THE SCENE CLAIM HE WAS GIVEN
A KARATE-STYLE KICK IN THE STOMACH BY AN INDIVIDUAL IN
CIVILIAN CLOTHES WHO THEY ASSUMED TO BE A PLAINCLOTHES
POLICEMANPM SAIGON POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING THE INCIDENT,
BUT HAVE NOT YET ESTABLISHED THE IDENTITY OF THE ASSAILANT.

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3. ANOTHER CBS CORRESPONDENT, PETER COLLINS, SUBMITTED A

WRITTEN REQUEST THIS MORNING TO THE COMMANDER OF THE NATIONAL POLICE DEMANDING THAT THE ASSAULT ON HOWELL BE INVESTIGATED FULLY AND HIS ASSAILANT PUNISHED.

4. THE EMBASSY PRESS OFFICER HAS TOLD COLLINS AND OTHER CORRESPONDENTS THAT THE AMBASSADOR WOULD RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE MFA AND ASK FOR A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION. AT TODAY'S PRESS BRIEFING, TH GVN SPOKESMAN DID NOT ELABORATE ON THE INCIDENT BUT MERELY SAID THAT AN INVESTIGATION WAS UNDERWAY.

5. DESPITE UNANIMOUS BELIEF OF THE AMERICAN WORKING PRESS THAT HOWELL WAS ATTACKED BY A PLAINCLOTHES POLICEMAN, THE POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE RULED OUT AT THIS STAGE THAT HIS ASSAILANT WAS SOMEONE OUTSIDE THE POLICE FORCE. THE CHIEF OF THE 1ST PRECINCT POLICE TALKED WITH CBS CORRESPONDENT COLLINS AFTER THE INCIDENT AND POINTED OUT THAT THE POLICE HAD NOT INTERFERED WITH OTHER PHOTOGRAPHERS AND REPORTERS COVERING THURSDAY'S DEMONSTRATIONS AND THAT THE POLICE HAD NO REASON TO BEAT THE CBS NEWSMAN.

6. AN AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMAT WHO WITNESSED THE DEMONSTRATION FROM HIS OFFICE IN THE CARAVELLE HOTEL REPORTS THAT SOME OF THE DEMONSTRATORS STARTED BEATING UP OTHER VIETNAMESE WHEN UNIFORMED POLICE INTERVENED. A CROWD GATHERED TO WATCH AND HOWELL WAS SEEN ELBOWING HIS WAY THROUGH THE ONLOOKERS. THE AUSTRALIAN SAID THAT HOWELL STAGGERED OUT OF THE MELEE SHORTLY THEREAFTER, OBVIOUSLY HURT.

7. NUMEROUS PHOTOS AND TV FILMS WERE TAKEN DURING THE DEMONSTRATION AND SOME MAY INCLUDE A PICTURE OF HOWELL'S ASSAILANT. CBS REPORTER COLLINS HAS EXAMINED AP AND UPI PHOTOS AND PLANS TO TURN SOME OF THEM OVER TO THE POLICE TO ASSIST IN THE INVESTIGATION. A FUJI TELEVISION REPORTER BELIEVES HE MAY HAVE FOOTAGE OF THE ACTUAL INCIDENT ON FILM HE HAS SHIPPED TO TOKYO FOR PROCESSING. HE HAS AGREED TO GIVE A PRINT TO CBS AND THE POLICE.

8. THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE POLICE WILL CONDUCT ANYTHING OTHER THAN A FULL INVESTIGATION, THE RESULTS OF WHICH WILL BE REPORTED AS AVAILABLE.
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MARTIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, LEGISLATIVE MAIL, JOURNALISTS, CASUALTIES, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON13179
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740290-0657
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741052/aaaabsep.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 223829
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 JUL 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY ON REPORTEDLY INJURED CBS TV REPORTER
TAGS: PINS, VS, US, (MARTIN), (HOWELL, HANEY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005